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Message Text

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67
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 SR-02 ORM-03 SCA-01 RSR-01 /132 W
---------- 011825
R 201414Z JUL 73
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2058
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0502

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PO, MZ
SUBJ: ALLEGED MOZAMBIQUE MASSACRE

REF: STATE 141395

1. IF OUR EXPERIENCE TO DATE ANY JUDGE, "HARD FACTS" AND "SOLID INFORMATION" PROVING OR DISPROVING ALLEGED MASSACRES IN MOZAMBIQUE WILL CONTINUE BE DIFFICULT TO FIND, AND WOULD REQUIRE DEBRIEFING OF EYE WITNESSES SUCH AS SURVIVORS, MISSIONARIES ACTUALLY ON SCENE (AS OPPOSED TO THOSE WHO REPEAT STORIES TOLD THEM AT SECOND OR THIRD HAND), OR SOLIDIERS WHO MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ALLEGED ATROCITIES. WE HAVE NOT YET COME ACROSS SUCH WITNESSES EITHER IN LOURENCO MARQUES OR DURING OUR TRAVELS IN WAR ZONES OR ELSEWHERE IN MOZAMBIQUE.

2. VISIT TO MOST LIKELY LOCATIONS OF "MASSACRES" MIGHT UNCOVER EVIDENCE DESPITE LONG LAPSE IN TIME SINCE ALLEGED INCIDENTS OCCURRED. HOWEVER, THESE ARE IN ISOLATED AREAS OF
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TETE WHICH HAVE BEEN DEPOPULATED FOR MONTHS AND COULD NOT

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BE REACHED WITHOUT PORTUGUESE ASSISTANCE. DO NOT BELIEVE THIS
IS APPROPRIATE MOMENT TO TRY VISIT SUCH AREAS AS PLACE IS
CRAWLING WITH NEWS CORRESPONDENTS AND PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES
WHO ARE NOW ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO ANY HINT OF FOREIGN INTER-
VENTION, UNLIKELY TO WELCOME REQUESTS BY CONSULAR REPRESENT-
ATIVES TO FURTHER CLUTTER UP THE SCENE.

3. AT THIS STAGE, WHILE SPOTLIGHT STILL ON MOZAMBIQUE, IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO PROBE MORE DEEPLY WITHOUT RISKING
BRINGING US INTO CONTROVERSY. WE SHALL OF COURSE CONTINUE
DISCREETLY SEEK OUT PERSONS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO SHED LIGHT
ON INCIDENTS, BUT WE FEAR MOST INFORMATION, LIKE MUCH OF THAT
ALREADY AVAILABLE, LIKELY BE BASED ON HEARSAY, PRO OR ANTI-
PORTUGUESE PROPAGANDA, WISHFUL THINKING, OR PREJUDICE.

4. EVENTUAL TRIAL OF TWO BURGOS FATHERS STILL IN DETENTION
MIGHT WELL REVEAL ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON MUCUMBURA OCCURRENCES.
TRIAL HAS BEEN MUCH POSTPONED, FIRST BY EFFORTS OF PROSECUTION
TO GATHER MORE EVIDENCE, AND MORE RECENTLY BY REQUEST OF
DEFENSE LAWYERS FOR ADDITIONAL DELAY IN ORDER FIND ANSWERS
TO NEW MATERIAL PRESENTED BY PROSECUTORS. PRESENT FLURRY
RESULTING FROM FATHER HASTINGS ARTICLE MAY PUT TRIAL OFF
EVEN LONGER.

5. FURTHER FACTS MIGHT BE UNCOVERED IF THOROUGHLY BRIEFED
AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT AREA.
THUS FAR ONLY BRITISH, SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN JOUR-
NALISTS HAVE APPEARED.

6. EMBASSIES ROME AND MADRID MIGHT BE ABLE INTERVIEW PRIESTS
FORMERLY STATIONED IN MOZAMBIQUE TO EVALUATE VALIDITY OF THEIR
ACCOUNTS. (IN ROME: FATHER LUIS ALONSO DA COSTA WHO CLAIMS
HE WITNESSED PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES AT MUCUMBURA. IN MADRID:
FATHER VICENTE BERENGUER LLOPIS, FORMER SUPERIOR OF BURGOS
FATHERS MISSION AT CHANGARA, TETE, WHO IS QUOTED AS HAVING
TOLD JOURNALISTS IN MADRID JULY 19 HE HAD MET AND INTER-
VIEWED SURVIVORS FLEEING WIRIYAMU MASSACRE; FATHER ENRIQUE
FERNANDO, FORMERLY OF BURGOS-RUN MISSION AT MUCUMBURA;
FATHER MIGUEL BUENDIA GOMES, AND FATHER JULIO MOURA CORTES,
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SEMINARY OF MISSIONS WHOSE ACCOUNTS
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OF ATROCITIES HAVE ALSO BEEN QUOTED.)

7. FINALLY, BETHLEHEM STEEL MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO SEND PETER
TELFAIR OR OTHER EXPERT ON FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO TETE DISTRICT
TO SURVEY POSSIBILITIES FOR STARTING FLUORSPAR OR OTHER
MINERALS EXPLOITATION. SUCH VISIT MIGHT PROVIDE PLAUSIBLE
EXCUSE FOR CONGEN OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY WITHOUT BECOMING
OPENLY EMBROILED IN "MASSACRE" CONTROVERSY.

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